

## CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:  
identifying an initial set of pitch value candidates within each frame of a plurality of frames of received audio content utilizing a first pitch estimation algorithm; and

reducing the initial set of pitch value candidates to a select set of pitch value candidates based, at least in part, on pitch value re-scoring utilizing a second pitch estimation algorithm, wherein the select set of pitch values are selected in substantially real-time.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
calculating a transition probability between at least one of the select pitch value candidates of adjacent frames.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising:  
selecting a pitch value within each frame with the highest transition probability between adjacent frames as the pitch value for the frame.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the transition probability is based, at least in part, on dynamic programming configured to determine a significantly best path between different pitch candidates of adjacent frames.

5. The method according to claim 2, further comprising:  
smoothing a curve representing the select pitch values over a plurality of frames based, at least in part, on other information.

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2       6.     The method according to claim 5, wherein other information includes  
3 one or more of an energy value for each frame, a zero crossing rate of the audio  
4 content, and/or a vocal tract spectrum of the audio content.  
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6       7.     The method according to claim 1, wherein identifying the initial set of  
7 pitch value candidates within each frame comprises:

8       passing each frame of audio content through an average magnitude  
9 difference function (AMDF); and

10       selecting N near-zero minima pitch values in the audio content as the initial  
11 set of pitch value candidates.  
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13       8.     The method according to claim 7, wherein N is set to 288 pitch value  
14 candidates, selected as the initial set of pitch value candidates based, at least in  
15 part, on the AMDF.  
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17       9.     The method according to claim 1, wherein identifying a select set of  
18 pitch values comprises:

19       generating a local score for each of the initial set of pitch value candidates  
20 utilizing a normalized cross-correlation function (NCCF); and

21       selecting M pitch value candidates with the highest local score.  
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1           **10.**   The computer readable media having computer instructions for  
2 performing acts comprising:

3           identifying an initial set of pitch value candidates within each frame of a  
4 plurality of frames of received audio content utilizing a first pitch estimation  
5 algorithm; and

6           reducing the initial set of pitch value candidates to a select set of pitch value  
7 candidates based, at least in part, on pitch value re-scoring utilizing a second pitch  
8 estimation algorithm, wherein the select set of pitch values are selected in  
9 substantially real-time.

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11           **11.**   The computer readable media according to claim 10, having further  
12 computer instructions for performing acts comprising:

13           calculating a transition probability between at least one of the select pitch  
14 value candidates of adjacent frames.

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16           **12.**   The computer readable media according to claim 11, having further  
17 computer instructions for performing acts comprising:

18           selecting a pitch value within each frame with the highest transition  
19 probability between adjacent frames as the pitch value for the frame.

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21           **13.**   The computer readable media according to claim 11, wherein the  
22 transition probability is based, at least in part, on dynamic programming  
23 configured to determine a significantly best path between different pitch  
24 candidates of adjacent frames.

1           **14.**    The computer readable media according to claim 11, having further  
2 computer instructions for performing acts comprising:

3               smoothing a curve representing the select pitch values over a plurality of  
4 frames based, at least in part, on other information.

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6           **15.**    The computer readable media according to claim 14, wherein other  
7 information includes one or more of an energy value for each frame, a zero  
8 crossing rate of the audio content, and/or a vocal tract spectrum of the audio  
9 content.

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11          **16.**    The computer readable media according to claim 10, wherein  
12 identifying the initial set of pitch value candidates within each frame comprises:

13               passing each frame of audio content through an average magnitude  
14 difference function (AMDF); and

15               selecting N near-zero minima pitch values in the audio content as the initial  
16 set of pitch value candidates.

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18          **17.**    The computer readable media according to claim 16, wherein N is  
19 set to 288 pitch value candidates, selected as the initial set of pitch value  
20 candidates based, at least in part, on the AMDF.

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22          **18.**    The computer readable media according to claim 10, wherein  
23 identifying a select set of pitch values comprises:

24               generating a local score for each of the initial set of pitch value candidates  
25 utilizing a normalized cross-correlation function (NCCF); and

              selecting M pitch value candidates with the highest local score.

1           **19.**     An apparatus comprising logic configured to receive audio content,  
2 identify an initial set of pitch value candidates within each frame of a plurality of  
3 frames of the received audio content utilizing a first pitch estimation algorithm,  
4 and reduce the initial set of pitch value candidates to a select set of pitch value  
5 candidates based, at least in part, on pitch value re-scoring utilizing a second pitch  
6 estimation algorithm, wherein the select set of pitch values are selected in  
7 substantially real-time.

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9           **20.**     The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the logic is further  
10 configured to calculate a transition probability between at least one of the select  
11 pitch value candidates of adjacent frames-.

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13           **21.**     The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the logic is further  
14 configured to select a pitch value within each frame with the highest transition  
15 probability between adjacent frames as the pitch value for the frame.

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17           **22.**     The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the transition  
18 probability is based, at least in part, on dynamic programming configured to  
19 determine a significantly best path between different pitch candidates of adjacent  
20 frames.

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22           **23.**     The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the logic is further  
23 configured to smoothing a curve representing the select pitch values over a  
24 plurality of frames based, at least in part, on other information.  
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1       **24.**    The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the other information  
2 includes one or more of an energy value for each frame, a zero crossing rate of the  
3 audio content, and/or a vocal tract spectrum of the audio content.  
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5       **25.**    The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein, when the logic  
6 identifies the initial set of pitch value candidates within each frame, the logic is  
7 further configured to pass each frame of audio content through an average  
8 magnitude difference function (AMDF), and select N near-zero minima pitch  
9 values in the audio content as the initial set of pitch value candidates.  
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11       **26.**    The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein N is set to 288 pitch  
12 value candidates, selected as the initial set of pitch value candidates based, at least  
13 in part, on the AMDF.  
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15       **27.**    The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein, when the logic  
16 identifies the select set of pitch values, the logic is further configured to generate a  
17 local score for each of the initial set of pitch value candidates utilizing a  
18 normalized cross-correlation function (NCCF), and select M pitch value candidates  
19 with the highest local score.  
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